

Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish, From 'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

IDAHOA SCAPIGERA SCALEPOD

Scalepod is a small, glabrous annual with many leafless stems that are 3-10 cm high. The numerous basal leaves have a long, slender petiole and narrowly elliptic blades that are 5-15 mm long with entire margins or two shallow lobes near the base. Each stem bears a single white flower at the tip. Each flower has 4 red to purple, separate sepals that are ca. 2 mm long, 4 separate petals of the same length, and 4 long and 2 short stamens. The flowers quickly form flattened, nearly circular fruits that are 6-12 mm in diameter with 6-12 wing-margined seeds inside. Flowering in March-April.

This is the only mustard in our area with a solitary flower/fruit.